



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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Venezuela

Agricultural Situation

Supermarket Tour

2009

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Report Highlights:

Recently FAS/Caracas visited four major supermarket chains to check for groceries supplies. Post reports on food and beverages availability and shortages.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Caracas [VE1]
[VE]

Visits to Major Supermarket Chains

Post visited selected stores of the major supermarket chains to learn about the current situation of food and beverages availability. The four stores were well supplied. Compared to the supermarket visits that were done by this office in December 2008, prior to the holidays, there are more products available now. Among the products verified as readily available were: apples, pears, oatmeal, powdered milk, UHT milk, beef, poultry, eggs, salt, breakfast cereals, rice, corn flour, tuna, vegetable oil, butter, margarine, coffee, juices, yellow cheese, and wheat flour.

The stores visited belong to the following supermarket chains:

EXCELSIOR GAMA (The store visited was recently opened and is the largest of this chain).
AURTOMERCADOS PLAZA'S
SUPERMERCADOS EL PATIO
SUPERMERCADOS UNICASA

Sugar & Coffee Shortages

The product that was in shortage in two of the four stores visited was sugar. Sector representatives explained that they are receiving small quantities of sugar two or three times during the week, but after three hours it is gone from the shelves. However, the situation improved compared to the last tour when there was no sugar in any of the stores visited.

Additionally, regular coffee is hard to find. There are premium and instant coffee presentations available in all the stores, but only one of the stores visited has regular coffee.